

EFFECTIVE

September 1, 2011.

SUBJECT

Children's Clothing Allowance (bulletin only).

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (FIP)

The 2011 Fiscal Appropriations Act included funding for the children's clothing allowance. The allowance is intended to assist FIP families to purchase clothing for their children.

The children's clothing allowance for the 2011 fiscal year is \$134 per eligible child. Eligibility is for all dependent children between the ages of 5-17 eligible for FIP, including SSI eligible children active in the FIP group for September 2011. This allowance is excluded as income for all programs.

**Automatic
Supplements**

Bridges will automatically issue payments for the clothing allowance to groups with qualifying children who are active FIP in Bridges for the benefit month of September 2011. The children's clothing allowance payments are deposited into the client's EBT cash account. This will include any FIP case that is opened retroactively for September. For retroactive case openings, you will not be able to see the benefit issuance until the next day.

The payment amount will include \$134 for each child ages 5-17 and SSI eligible children and will be automatically issued if FIP is active on August 31, 2011 for September benefits. A supplement will be deposited into the client's EBT cash account within the first week of September. The payments will be viewable in Bridges, View Benefits, under Benefit Issuance.

**Manual
Supplements**

Eligible members added to an ongoing FIP case will not automatically receive the supplement. Manually authorize supplements for eligible children between ages 5-17 and SSI eligible children with a FIP eligibility determination group (EDG) with a Participation Status code of eligible child who did not receive the allowance automatically.

Note: This can be verified by looking at the September benefit period in the Eligibility Summary. Only children with Participation status of eligible child or other child should be allowed this manual supplement. Authorize \$134 for each child on the case in a single supplement.

Supplements will also be necessary for FIP cases that receive a \$0 issuance. Field Services will disperse a list containing these specific cases to the local office.

New Case Openings

Supplements for new case openings for September 2011 will be automatically generated by Bridges when eligibility results are certified.

Note: For new case openings, the supplement will not show in Bridges until the following day. It is important to **check View Benefits** the day following FIP certification before issuing a manual supplement.

A letter from the Department of Human Services Director, Maura Corrigan, is mailed to FIP clients in August (see attached). This letter advises eligible families of the allowance coming in September to help with the cost of children's clothing.

For questions regarding this bulletin please contact the Employment Policy mailbox: Policy-Employment@michigan.gov.

EXHIBIT

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNORSTATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSINGMAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

August 10, 2011

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Research has shown that a child's self-esteem has a big impact on how well he or she does in school. Our clothing allowance is designed to help children start school feeling good about themselves and about going to school.

Families receiving FIP benefits will receive \$134 for each eligible child in the FIP group ages 5-17 in September. Qualifying families will receive these funds as an additional deposit to their case account on their Bridge Card during the first week of September according to the last digit of their case number. If your FIP case was active, but closed before the allowance was deposited, the allowance may be issued as a separate check.

Shopping together with your child for clothing can be a wonderful experience. At the same time it gives them an opportunity to get excited about the upcoming school year. Starting the school year off on the right foot is important for all children, as it sets the tone for the year to come.

I encourage you to use this opportunity to discuss any concerns your child may have about school to ensure that he or she is comfortable when the first day of school arrives. Thank you for your commitment and the care you provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maura D. Corrigan".

Maura D. Corrigan

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**MANUAL
MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTIONS**